

CLAIMS

I claim:

1 1. A method for automatically mounting a plurality of
2 remote volumes to a client, comprising:
3 requesting of a first server said mounting of said volumes;
4 returning by said first server a set of mounting parameters;
5 and
6 automatically mounting said plurality of volumes utilizing
7 said returned parameters, said parameters , said volumes located
8 remote to said client, said volumes after mounting behaving as
9 would a volume native to said client.

1 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said requesting
2 includes:
3 authenticating said client by said first server via an interface
4 to said first server, said client authentication characterized by
5 a login identification (ID).

1 3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said
2 authenticating includes:
3 supplying by the client said login ID and a password intended for
4 said login ID.

1 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein said
2 authenticating further includes:
3 comparing said supplied password and said login ID with a
4 stored password on said first server associated with said login
5 ID; and
6 if said stored password matches said supplied password for said
7 login ID, then characterizing said client as successfully
8 authenticated with said login ID.

1 5. A method according to claim 1 that further includes:
2 detecting the presence of a cookie on said client, said
3 cookie indicating by its presence that said client has installed
4 a plug-in module; and
5 if said cookie is not detected, terminating any said volume
6 mounting.

1 6. A method according to claim 4 wherein said returning
2 includes:
3 if successfully authenticated, retrieving said parameters
4 from a profile datastore on said first server, said parameters
5 indexed therein by said login ID; and
6 assembling a mounting command block, said command block
7 consisting of a mount command and said retrieved parameters.

1 7. A method according to claim 1 wherein said requesting
2 is initiated by an event occurring on said client requiring said
3 mounting.

1 8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said returning
2 includes:
3 retrieving said parameters from a profile datastore on said
4 first server, said parameters indexed therein by an identifier
5 for said event; and
6 assembling a mounting command block, said command block
7 consisting of a mount command and said retrieved parameters.

1 9. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first server
2 returns said parameters via a plug-in module installed on said
3 client.

1 10. A method according to claim 9 wherein automatically
2 mounting includes:
3 obtaining an address for said first server;
4 comparing said address for said first server against a
5 built-in list of approved servers; and
6 if said address is not contained on said built-in list, then
7 terminating the process of automatically mounting.

1 11. A method according to claim 10 further wherein if said
2 address is contained on said built-in list, then:
3 passing of said parameters by said plug-in to an application
4 programming interface (API) of said client; and
5 completing the mounting of said volume by said API, said
6 mounting achieved absent of user intervention.

1 12. A method according to claim 1 wherein said remote
2 interface is an Hypertext Transport Protocol capable browser.

1 13. A method according to claim 1 wherein said parameters
2 include, for each of said volumes, a volume name, a server alias,
3 a volume username and volume password.

1 14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said server
2 alias is resolved to an address of a second server, said second
3 server housing the volume identified by the corresponding said
4 volume name.

1 15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said address of
2 said second server is an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

1 16. A method according to claim 14 wherein said resolving
2 is achieved by:

3 looking up said server alias in a mapping table; and
4 retrieving from said look up said address of said server
5 from said mapping table.

1 17. A method according to claim 6 wherein said mounting
2 command block is contained in an extensible markup language (XML)
3 document.

1 18. A method according to claim 8 wherein said mounting
2 command block is contained in an extensible markup language (XML)
3 document.

1 19. A system for mounting volumes over a network, said
2 system comprising:
3 a client configured to request said mounting; and
4 a server coupled to said client said server configured to
5 return a mounting command block to said client.

1 20. A system according to claim 19 further comprising:
2 a plug-in installed in said client, said plug-in configured
3 to approve the address of said server.

1 21. A system according to claim 20 further comprising:

2 an application programming interface (API) coupled to said
3 plug-in and configured to automatically mount said volumes
4 specified in said mounting command block, said mounting performed
5 without the need for user intervention.

1 22. An article comprising a computer readable medium having
2 instructions stored thereon which when executed cause
3 automatically mounting a plurality of volumes to a client, said
4 instructions performing:

5 requesting of a first server said mounting of said volumes;
6 returning by said first server a set of mounting parameters;
7 and

8 automatically mounting said plurality of volumes utilizing
9 said returned parameters, said parameters, said volumes located
10 remote to said client, said volumes after mounting behaving as
11 would a volume native to said client, said mounting performed
12 without the need for user intervention.

1 23. In a computer system having a processor and memory, an
2 apparatus for automatically mounting a plurality of remote
3 volumes to said computer system, said apparatus comprising:

4 a plug-in module configured to receive from a server a
5 mounting command block, said mounting command block to include
6 volume mounting parameters; and

7 an application programming interface coupled to said plug-
8 in and configured to automatically mount said volumes specified

9 in said mounting command block, said mounting performed without
10 the need for user intervention.

1 24. An apparatus for automatically mounting a plurality of
2 volumes to a client, said apparatus comprising:
3 means for requesting of a first server said mounting of said
4 volumes;
5 means for returning by said first server a set of mounting
6 parameters; and
7 means for automatically mounting said plurality of volumes
8 utilizing said returned parameters, said parameters , said
9 volumes located remote to said client, said volumes after
10 mounting behaving as would a volume native to said client, said
11 mounting performed without the need for user intervention.